

BARNARD CASTLE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

of the

Medical Officer
of Health

for the Year 1969

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Barnard Castle
Rural District Council

Health Department,
43 Galgate,
Barnard Castle.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Gore-Booth and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1969.

The Vital Statistics of the district are generally satisfactory, and reflect the changes in military population as in previous years.

During my absence from work during the greater part of 1969 Dr. Robert Dawson, your Deputy Medical Officer of Health, carried out many duties on your behalf and also made himself available at all times for any urgent matter. I am indebted to him for his help and would also thank the family doctors in the District for their continued support and advice.

I wish to thank the Members of this Council for their continued support and the Staff of the Department for their loyal co-operation.

Your obedient servant,

A. S. M. WILSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):

A. S. M. WILSON, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

ROBERT DAWSON, M.A., M.B., CH.B., M.D.

Senior Public Health Officer:

JOHN GEORGE MIDDLETON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Public Health Inspector:

GEOFFREY NUTTER, M.A.P.H.I.

Administrative Assistant:

JOE HODGSON.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (Acreage)—110,118.

Population (Registrar General's Estimated Figure mid-year 1969)—17,380.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£1,373 14s. 8d.

Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1969—£366,494.

The industries are agriculture, coal mining and stone quarrying.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

I am indebted to Miss Redfearn, Forest-in-Teesdale, for supplying rainfall figures in the Upper Teesdale area during the past five years:—

Rainfall at Latitude 54° 39' North. Upper Teesdale.

Month	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
January	7.81	4.40	2.93	3.86	3.31
February	2.45	6.99	7.27	1.70	4.01
March	3.25	3.70	4.27	9.37	5.73
April	5.35	3.98	2.94	2.88	3.46
May	3.56	4.11	7.84	2.83	3.46
June	4.05	4.05	1.77	3.65	3.25
July	3.02	2.92	3.91	3.89	1.34
August	4.09	5.72	5.75	1.68	1.83
September	5.79	3.60	6.52	7.70	4.13
October	3.12	5.87	11.41	6.36	1.28
November	5.55	4.98	6.23	3.89	7.85
December	5.01	7.28	3.99	4.86	3.51
Annual Rainfall	53.05	57.60	64.83	52.67	43.16

VITAL STATISTICS, 1969.

			Males			Females		
			Total	Legit.	Illegit.	Total	Legit.	Illegit.
Live Births	...	...	118	113	5	115	107	8
Still Births	...	...	1	1	0	7	7	0
Deaths of Infants								
Under 1 year of age			0	0	0	2	1	1
Under 4 weeks of age			0	0	0	1	0	1
Under 1 week of age			0	0	0	1	0	1

Live-birth Rate—13.4 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted Rate—14.9 per 1,000 home population.

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales—16.3 per 1,000 home population.

Still-birth Rate—33 per 1,000 total live and still births.

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales—13 per 1,000 total live and still births.

Death-rate—12.7 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted Rate—14.2 per 1,000 home population.

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales—11.9 per 1,000 home population.

Deaths of Infants:

Under 1 year of age—9 per 1,000 live births.

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales—18 per 1,000 live births.

Perinatal Mortality—37 per 1,000 total live and still births.

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales—23 per 1,000 total live and still births.

	Male	Female	Total
ALL CAUSES OF DEATH	125	95	220
MAIN CAUSES—			
Cardio vascular:			
(a) Cerebrovascular disease ...	15	22	37
(b) Ischaemic heart disease ...	55	22	77
(c) Other forms of heart disease	2	5	7
(d) Other diseases of circulatory system ...	10	8	18
(e) Hypertensive disease	3	—	3
(f) Chronic rheumatic heart disease	—	2	2
	—	—	—
Totals	85	59	144
Cancer (Malignant Neoplasms) Totals	14	12	26
Chest Diseases:			
(a) Pneumonia	4	1	5
(b) Bronchitis	8	2	10
(c) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
(d) Asthma	—	2	2
(e) Influenza	—	2	2
	—	—	—
Totals	13	8	21

As in previous years, the main causes of death in the district were diseases of the heart and circulatory system 65.5%, cancer 11.8% and diseases of the respiratory system 9.5%, in that order.

General Provision of Health Services in the District.

A. HOSPITALS:—

There are no hospitals in the district. Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of the hospitals controlled by the South-West Durham Hospital Management Committee.

B. LABORATORIES:—

Public Health Laboratories are available at Northallerton and Newcastle-on-Tyne. Facilities are also provided at Bishop Auckland General Hospital, Pathological Department, for urgent bacteriological examinations.

C. COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES.

In his quarterly reports to the Area Health Sub-Committee, the County Medical Officer includes the following information of Services in the area:—

1. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Barnard Castle urban and rural districts are served by two ambulance depots, three ambulances and six driver-attendants.

2. HOME NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

Staff: 6 District Nurse Midwives.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.
Mrs. L. Atkinson,	4 Victoria Terrace, Middleton-in-Teesdale.	
	Middleton-in-Teesdale 308.	
Miss L. H. Dodd,	4 Montgomery Road, Barnard Castle.	
	Barnard Castle 2149.	
Mrs. M. L. Morton,	3 Harmire Road, Barnard Castle.	Barnard Castle 3156.
Mrs. M. C. Pattison,	45 Coronation Gardens, Staindrop.	Staindrop 316.
Miss E. Shenton,	13 Eden Crest, Gainford.	Gainford 247.
Mrs. V. M. Slack,	Garden House, Copley, Butterknowle.	Cockfield 254.

These District Nurse Midwives practice domiciliary midwifery and carry out general home nursing as required.

3. HEALTH VISITING.

The number of Health Visitors in the area at the end of 1969 was three. Their routine duties include visits to mothers and children, tuberculosis patients, and mentally subnormal, school children and the aged.

4. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

Assistance was provided in the home when necessary on account of old age, home confinement or illness.

5. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Sessions were held at Butterknowle, Cockfield, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Staindrop, Gainford, Etherley, and at Evenwood.

6. CHIROPODY.

During 1969 sessions were held at Cockfield, Etherley, Evenwood, Gainford, Hamsterley, Ingleton, Middleton-in-Teesdale, and Staindrop.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

DIPHThERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IMMUNISATION;
POLIOMYELITIS, SMALLPOX AND MEASLES VACCINATION.

Protection against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox and measles is available from family doctors and child welfare centres.

Polio protection is available up to the age of 40 and to certain priority groups over that age. The vaccine may be had either by injection or by mouth.

During 1969 the immunisation of school entrants was continued. This work was carried out within the schools on a sessional basis and is reflected in the general immunisation statistics for the area.

The following records have been received for work carried out in the area during 1969.

	TOTAL UNDER 16 YEARS	
	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Boosters</i>
Poliomyelitis	130	135
Diphtheria	95	220
Whooping Cough	50	54
Tetanus	103	245
Smallpox	50	7
Measles	82	—

The statistics for immunisation and vaccination in the Barnard Castle area are not as satisfactory as they might be despite the steady flow of information to parents exhorting them to take advantage of the wide range of protection which is so readily available.

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

During 1969 protection against tuberculosis continued to be offered in accordance with County Council policy to all school children aged 11 years and over.

A skin test is carried out first to see whether or not a child has developed a degree of natural immunity. A negative reading indicates the need for protection and vaccination is then carried out.

Of the 93 children tested during 1969, 71 were found to be negative and were vaccinated.

Children who are absent or not vaccinated for such medical reasons as intercurrent infection, skin conditions, etc., are usually taken up at subsequent sessions.

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during recent years.

			1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Scarlet Fever	...	...	18	6	3	1	7	25
Measles	...	...	92	213	33	357	59	9
Whooping Cough	...	...	6	4	11	7	12	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Opthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	—	38	3	—	1	—
Typhoid Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	—	1	3	—	1	2
Infective Jaundice	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	5
TUBERCULOSIS.								

There was one death attributable to tuberculosis in the district during 1969. Two new notifications were received, both females aged 66 and 28 respectively.

LOCAL WELFARE SERVICES.

MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE.

This service continues to provide some 84 people with a good meal twice weekly. The meals are taken out from seven different centres by the W.R.V.S. and the subsidised cost to recipients is one shilling per meal. This is very good value nutritionally and the recipients, elderly and sometimes lonely people, look forward to the W.R.V.S. visits.

The service is intended primarily to help those who are bedfast, housebound, and so physically handicapped that they are unable to prepare and cook meals satisfactorily for themselves.

APPENDIX I. Causes of Death at different periods of life during 1969 in the Rural District of Barnard Castle

CAUSE OF DEATH

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	All ages	Under 4 weeks		Age in years								75 and over
			1 year	4 weeks	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	
TUBERCULOSIS OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	M	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, BUCCAL CAVITY, ETC.	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, OESOPHAGUS	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, STOMACH	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, INTESTINE	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, LARYNX	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, LUNG, BRONCHUS	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	2
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, BREAST	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, UTERUS	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, PROSTATE	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
OTHER MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS	M	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
BENIGN AND UNSPECIFIED NEOPLASMS	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DIABETES MELLITUS	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
AVITAMINOSES, ETC.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
MENTAL DISORDERS	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
OTHER DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM, ETC.	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

DISEASE	M	F	TOTAL
CHRONIC RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE	...	...	...
HYPERTENSIVE DISEASE	...	...	...
ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE	...	...	...
OTHER FORMS OF HEART DISEASE	...	...	...
CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	...	...	...
OTHER DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	...	...	...
INFLUENZA	...	...	...
PNEUMONIA	...	...	...
BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA	...	...	...
ASTHMA	...	...	...
OTHER DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	...	...	...
PEPTIC ULCER	...	...	...
APPENDICITIS	...	...	...
CIRRHOSIS OF LIVER	...	...	...
OTHER DISEASES OF DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	...	...	...
HYPERPLASIA OF PROSTATE	...	...	...
CONGENITAL ANOMALIES	...	...	...
ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS	...	...	...
SUICIDE AND SELF-INFLICTED INJURIES	...	...	...
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	...	...	...

SECTION II

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

In the preface to my report to you for the year 1967, I made reference to the number of ash closets which still existed in the area. Since then, we have seen a gradual reduction in this number and we hope to see this still further reduced when the sewerage scheme for Hilton is completed.

The slowness in completing work on several of the privately owned caravan sites in the area is regretted, and it is hoped that the coming year will see all sites brought up to a proper standard with all outstanding work completed.

There are no other items about which I want to make special reference, but would again like to record my thanks to Mr. Nutter and Mr. Hodgson for their continued support and the invaluable assistance which they have rendered throughout the year.

J. G. MIDDLETON,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLIES.

GENERAL.

Routine sampling of the several public supplies of water were undertaken during the year and the results were all satisfactory. Complaints of inadequate pressure and occasional failure of supply were made from the Keverstone area of Raby, but this in the main affected only two or three properties. The Water Board are aware of these complaints and have the matter in hand.

MARWOOD.

A private supply, covering the Kinninvie area of Marwood, was found to be badly contaminated, and investigations are being carried out to find the cause.

HAMSTERLEY.

Work is to be put in hand in early 1970 to improve the supply to the west end of Hamsterley village.

STANTON.

The new main to supply Stanton village was completed during the year and no complaints have been received since, either with regard to pressure or inadequacy of supply.

FLUORIDATION OF SUPPLIES.

The rural district is supplied in the main from two large undertakings controlled by the Durham County Water Board, and the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board. Separate spring supplies are provided for the following areas:—

Forest-in-Teesdale—(Newbiggin supply).

Middleton-in-Teesdale—(Middleton supply).

Eggleston—(Eggleston supply).

Woodland and parts of Lynesack & Softley—(Woodland supply).

Cockfield—(Cockfield supply).

Raby & Keverstone—(Cockfield supply).

No fluoride is added to any supplies in the area but the following table indicates the natural fluoride content where known:—

Middleton-in-Teesdale	(1 ppm)
	—100% of recommended concentration.
Newbiggin-in-Teesdale	(1.2 ppm)
	—in excess of recommended concentration
Eggleston	(0.1 ppm)
	10% of recommended concentration.
Tees Valley & Cleveland	(0.15 ppm)
	—15% of recommended concentration

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

TOFT HILL.

Work was put in hand and completed during the year on the provision of a new sewer and ejector station at Toft Hill. This scheme did away with two septic tanks which had been used for the reception and treatment of sewage from the west end of Toft Hill village. The effluent from these tanks had been unsatisfactory and the sewage which previously ran into these is now pumped into the sewer which gravitates to the sewerage works in the Bishop Auckland Urban District Council's area. Ministry of Housing and Local Government approval was given to this scheme at an estimated cost of £6,712.

HILTON.

Work was also started on a new sewerage scheme for the village of Hilton. The scheme incorporates a pumping station which pumps the sewage to Ingleton for treatment in the Ingleton works. The distance of the rising main is 4,766 feet. At the end of 1969 approximately 80% of the work was completed at a total estimated cost of £5,775.

NEWBIGGIN-IN-TEESDALE.

The only other village in the district without a proper sewerage scheme is Newbiggin-in-Teesdale. This scheme has been on the Council's programme for some time but owing to financial restrictions and other causes, no evident progress has been made. The Council's Engineer and Surveyor has surveyed for this scheme and it is to be hoped that something will develop in the near future. The present arrangements for sewage treatment in this village is a multiplicity of tanks, which in the main are giving reasonable satisfaction. Farm waste will be a problem, but it is hoped that this will be satisfactorily solved and a scheme provided in the near future. Absence of such a scheme is tending to retard progress on improvements to private dwellings.

Houses supplied by Public Undertakings.

The following table shows the number of houses supplied with water from public undertakings:—

Parish	Present Estimated Population	No. of Houses	Supply in House	Stand Pipe
Bolam	102	33	32	—
Cleatlam	82	29	24	1
Cockfield	2121	699	699	1
Eggleston	352	182	135	—
Forest and Frith ...	257	80	24	2
Gainford	1130	432	427	—
Hamsterley	343	140	104	2
Hilton	79	16	14	—
Headlam	63	21	20	—
Evenwood	3158	1143	1124	2
Etherley	1801	663	639	1
Ingleton	336	126	118	1
Langleydale	117	24	18	1
Langton	60	12	11	1
Lynesack	1465	548	546	2
Marwood	508	152	144	1
Morton Tinmouth	16	4	4	1
Middleton-in-Teesdale	1539	623	607	16
Newbiggin	206	77	54	5
Raby and Keverstone	166	38	14	—
Staindrop	1252	486	486	—
Streatlam and Stainton	575	198	198	—
South Bedburn ...	226	64	—	—
Wackerfield	88	26	26	—
Westwick	96	29	28	—
Whorlton	197	78	69	—
Winston	423	151	137	—
Woodland	270	108	105	—

FOOD AND DRUGS.

MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS.

Only three slaughterhouses were licensed for the slaughter of animals during 1969, as against four for the previous year. The licence not renewed was that of Mr. W. Thompson, Sloses Farm, Etherley. All animals killed were inspected but the total number as inspected was lower than for the previous year.

Revenue for the year from meat inspection amounted to £110 3s. 3d. No difficulty has arisen with regard to days and time of slaughter, although certain week-end killings have taken place in one slaughterhouse, and in another it is common practice for killing to take place on an evening. No orders are in operation restricting days and times of slaughtering.

UN SOUND MEAT.

The following summaries indicate the amount of carcase meat condemned, and organs or parts of organs condemned as being unfit for human consumption, and the total number of animals killed and those found to be affected with disease. Two meat specimens were submitted for laboratory examination.

ANIMALS KILLED AND FOUND TO BE AFFECTED WITH DISEASE.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed (if known)	472	nil	3	1124	612	nil
Number Inspected	472	nil	3	1124	612	nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses con- demned	nil	nil	nil	nil	2	nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	52	nil	nil	29	18	nil
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.01	nil	nil	2.5	3.2	—
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses con- demned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	nil	nil	nil	2	nil
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	.2	nil	nil	nil	.3	—
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	nil	nil	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	nil	nil	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	nil	nil	nil	—	—	—

MEAT CONDEMNED.

A total of 862 lbs. of carcase meat and offal was condemned in the slaughter-houses as being unfit for human consumption.

THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS.

There are no liquid egg pasteurisation process plants in the area. No liquid egg samples have been taken.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1958.

A total of 21 licences were issued to persons to Slaughter and Stun Animals, the same number as the previous year. Eighteen of these were renewals of licences previously held and three were new licences.

ICE CREAM.

A total of 72 premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice cream. There are no ice cream manufacturing plants in the area. Several vans come into the district from outside areas, but the bulk of the ice cream sold is made by one or other of the larger manufacturing firms of national repute.

MILK SUPPLIES.

In accordance with an agreement reached with the County Health Inspector, the routine sampling of milk was left to his department.

During the year a total of 266 samples were taken, 226 of these being of untreated milk, 34 pasteurised milk, and six sterilized milk. Ten samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue test (nine were void). Two samples of milk from different herds were found to contain the organisms of Brucellosis. One of the producers concerned stopped retailing raw milk and is now sending it all away for pasteurisation. In the other case the offending animals were detected and removed from the herd.

POULTRY INSPECTION.

There are two poultry slaughtering establishments in the area but only one at which regular killings take place. The main establishment is in the parish of Cockfield, and an estimated weekly output from the two is around 1,700 head. A general oversight over the inspection of poultry is carried out but regular daily visits are not made. Condemnations are not heavy because of the main establishment being occupied by a breeder-processor, and sick birds are culled before slaughtering age.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1960.

The following is a list of the several different types of food premises operating in the area during the year under review:—

Grocers	...	...	68
Butchers	...	...	7
Fried Fish & Chip Shops			8
Confectioners	...		6
Greengrocers	...		4
Cafes and Restaurants			6
Snack Bars	...	...	3
Licensed premises	...		41
Workmen's Clubs	...		4
Other Clubs	...	...	2

HOUSING.

During 1969 there was a slight fall in the number of houses completed for occupation by private enterprise. The Council built no new houses during the year but work was in hand in the preparation of a "flatlet" scheme for aged persons.

The tabulated statement submitted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the year under review indicates the position regarding progress in building new houses and in dealing with unfit properties as follows:—

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR.

			With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
a. By Local Authority	...	...	—	—	—
b. By any other Housing Authority			—	—	—
c. By private persons	...	...	—	78	78

The total number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 6,238.

UNFIT PROPERTIES DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR.

(A) FORMAL ACTION.

- (1) Number of houses demolished as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action:

CLEARANCE AREAS.

Raby Moor, Cockfield	...	...	30
45 and 45a Toft Hill	...	...	2

DEMOLITION ORDERS.

Garden Cottage, Gainford	...	...	1
1-4 Front Street, Cockfield	...	...	4

37

(2) Number of houses Closed but not demolished :

No. 1 Accrington Terrace, Evenwood	1
Nos. 15 and 18 High Lands, Cockfield	2
No. 22 The Edge, Woodland ...	1
No. 8 Fell Houses, Cockfield ...	1
No. 9 Raby Moor, Cockfield ...	1
	6

(3) Houses in Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses, the demolition of which is temporarily postponed :

Nos. 1-8 High Lands, Cockfield ...	8
Nos. 10-21 High Lands, Cockfield ...	12
No. 55 Cross Row, High Lands ...	1
Mill House, Butterknowle ...	1
Nos. 21 and 22 The Edge, Woodland	2
Nos. 5-14 Fell Houses, Cockfield ...	10
Nos. 1 & 2 Accrington Terrace, Evenwood	2
Nos. 1 & 2 Belts Gill, Etherley ...	2
Nos. 50 & 51 Front Street, Cockfield ...	2
Nos. 1-4 Wood Row, Butterknowle ...	4
Nos. 1-4 Quarry Houses, Cockfield ...	4
Nos. 68 & 69 Wilkinson's Yard, Copley	2
Nos. 39 & 40 Raby Moor, Cockfield ...	2
No. 5 New Moors, Evenwood ...	1
Rose Cottage, Bolam ...	1
Green View, Hamsterley ...	1
Moor Head, Marwood ...	1
Nos. 7 & 8 Quarry Lane, Butterknowle	2
	58

(B) INFORMAL ACTION.

The following houses were closed as a result of informal action :

Nos. 3 & 4 Stanwix Cottages, Cockfield	2
No. 16 South Green, Staindrop ...	1
	3

(C) RECONDITIONING OF HOUSES AND REPAIR.

Houses made fit during the year by procedure under the Housing Acts or Public Health Acts:

(1) As a result of informal action:

6 & 7 Langton	2
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(2) By owners as a result of Statutory Notice:

11 & 12 Lane Head, Cockfield ...	2
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Watergate Eye, Butterknowle ...	1
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9 Quarry Lane, Copley	1
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42 Front Street, Cockfield	1
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7

(3) By Local Authority on default of owners: Nil.

SCHEMES OF IMPROVEMENT.

A report was submitted to the Council in November on the properties in the Gordon Lane, Ramshaw, area. The purpose of this was to try and encourage owners to submit proposals for improvement schemes in those properties falling below standard. A total of 56 dwellings were covered by the report and our findings in relation to these, as determined by inspection, was as follows:

Total dwellings to standard	18
„ substandard but capable of improvement	20
„ recommended for demolition	9
„ recommended for purchase and demolition	2
„ already subject to an order for demolition	1
„ agreed to be demolished (informal action)	5
„ to be repaired (Bridge Inn)	1
	56

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

	No. of separate houses	
	Discretionary Grant	Standard Grant
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority	75	14
(b) Applications rejected	Nil	Nil
(c) Total number of grants approved since inception of scheme	1166	214
(d) Total number of grants paid since inception of scheme	1079	177
(e) Total sum paid in year 1969 ...	£26,315	£1,804

RODENT CONTROL.

I append below a copy of the annual report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1969:—

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district ...	6422	773
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	65	5
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	60	5
(ii) Mice	5	Nil
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	40	Nil
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	22	Nil
(ii) Mice	Nil	Nil

CLEAN AIR ACT 1957. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There are no smoke control areas in the district. In spite of this statement every available opportunity is taken of advising householders over the use of smokeless fuel, or of using appliances for heating and other purposes which do not need solid fuel as a medium for supplying heat.

The grit bowl which was sited in Steel's field, Evenwood, for the measurement of solid deposits, was removed because of the adjacent stock piling of very large quantities of coke which gave rise to false readings. This instrument is to be resited in a new position.

Complaints were received from residents in the Copeland Row, Evenwood, area of a nuisance caused by fine coal dust which arose from large stock piles approximately 30 yards away. The dust from these piles was particularly bad when loading and unloading was taking place.

The management were approached and they agreed to spray the fine coal prior to its disturbance. Provided this agreement is carried out the grounds for complaint should be removed.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

It is still a little disconcerting to find that there are still a fair number of ash closets and other kinds (other than water closets) still existing in the area. The majority of these are attached to isolated premises, away from main systems of sewerage, and these will only be replaced by the provision of separate septic tanks. Each year brings a reduction in the number of such closets as more and more properties are improved either by way of grant or by unaided improvement schemes. At the end of 1968 it was estimated that a total of 492 remained of this type of closet, but the figure is now reduced to 374 at the end of the year under review.

An extract from a report submitted to the County Medical Officer indicates the position as follows:

Closets (all types) converted to water closets ...	80
Total number of water closets in district ...	5891
Total number of ash closets and similar types ...	374

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

REGISTRATIONS.

No material change in the number or type of premises registered with the Council occurred during 1969. The annual return submitted to the Ministry of Labour showed the position as follows:—

Class of premises Registered.	Number of new registrations.	Total number of premises.	Registered Premises Inspected.
Offices	Nil	10	4
Retail shops	2	27	27
Wholesale shops and warehouses	Nil	2	2
Catering establishments, etc. ...	1	7	7
Fuel storage depots	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	3	46	40

The total number of visits made to registered premises for all purposes amounted to 115.

The total number of employees in all groups of registered premises at the end of the year was: Males 54. Females 76.

ACCIDENTS.

Only one slight accident occurred during the year, resulting in a sprained wrist.

CONTRAVENTIONS.

There was no need to make any special report upon any contraventions which were noted, and no proceedings were taken.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Work in the department, on the collection and disposal of refuse, continued smoothly during the year.

The Council decided to seek tenders for the supply of a new bulldozer for the controlled tip at Evenwood—the present David Brown machine having been in use for over 10 years and no longer being an economical proposition to maintain. The paper bag scheme for the storage of household refuse was extended, and now practically covers the whole of the area except for certain isolated properties. It now appears that this scheme of domestic refuse storage is fully accepted and appreciated by the householders.

We are able to give a once a week collection to all properties in the area. This is done by using four vehicles, three of which are of the compression, rear loading type, and the other being a 7 cubic yard side loader. This latter vehicle has been in use for many years and is now ready for replacement. The estimated cost of refuse collection and refuse disposal for the year is £29,656.

Maintenance and repairs to all Council vehicles was carried out by the Council's own staff at the Council Garage, Cockfield.

The following summary indicates the mileage and work involved over the year in the collection of refuse:—

Number of collections made	...	...	294,620
Number of loads of refuse	...	...	2,284
Estimated tonnage	...	...	6,300
Mileage run by collecting vehicles	...	...	37,411

SEPTIC TANK CLEARANCES.

Regular emptying of septic tanks continued and there are now 444 tanks listed for regular attention.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967.

Regular collections of bulky furniture and other large and unwanted articles of household equipment are made, usually on Fridays of each week. No charge is made for this service except in exceptional circumstances. All illegal deposits of refuse that are made, and where the responsible persons are not traced, are quickly dealt with, gathered up and removed to the refuse tip. It is difficult to understand why this type of dumping takes place, particularly when a free service is given and where tips are made available for trade and other wastes.

Twelve abandoned cars were removed during the calendar year.

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	38	56	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	5	—	—
Total	44	63	2	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

Particulars				Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
				To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences—Found				Remedied		
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2	—	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—	—	—

OUTWORKERS.

No outworkers are registered.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS' ACT 1964.

A total of 17 dealers have been registered by the Council under the above Act.

